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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/897,871	07/02/2001	Heather A. Bowen-Leaver	00.30US	1385

7590 12/27/2004

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EXAMINER

YU, GINA C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1617

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/897,871	BOWEN-LEAVER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Gina C. Yu	1617

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 04 October 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

a) The period for reply expires 6 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on 03 December 2004. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
 2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
 4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
 5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See continuation sheet.
 6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
 7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

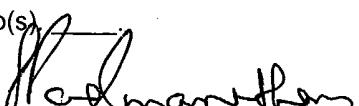
Claim(s) allowed: none.

Claim(s) objected to: none.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-16.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: none.

8. The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 

10. Other: _____

SREENI PADMANABHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Continuation from No. 5:

Both Diec and the present claims are directed to transparent emulsion gel comprising oil particles having size "less than about 100nm". Applicants admit in the specification that the presence of thickener affects the transparency. It does not follow that thickeners are absolutely present in the Diec' transparent gel while they are absent from the present invention. The reference in fact teaches that the prior art invention utilizes emulsifiers or polymers to form hydrophobic network to form gel without thi

With respect to the term "self-structured", examiner takes the position that the claim language does not necessarily exclude any specific component from the claimed composition. Although applicants assert that the present invention is void of "thickeners or gelling agents", the argument is not commensurate with the scope of the claims since what specific compounds are considered thickeners and gelling agents which applicants have excluded. For example, Diec teaches "lipogels and oleogels (of waxes, fats and fatty oils) as well as carbogels (from paraffin or petrolatum) are furthermore also customary in cosmetic and pharmaceutical galenics". See col. 2, lines 5-14. In this case, applicants may call these oily gelling components "oil components" which make up the oil phase of the claimed composition, but these oil components also may be the gelling agents which applicants assert are not in present in the composition. Since there is no specific recitation of what may be present and excluded, applicants' assertion that the prior art contains certain components not present in the instant composition is unconvincing.

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Furthermore, the reference teaches, “[I]n addition, the object of the present invention was to use emulsifiers or polymers which, in addition to their property of being able to reduce interfacial tension or of being able to thicken the microemulsion to give a gel, can additionally achieve a physiological action”. See col. 7, lines 45-49. Thus, the idea of thickening an emulsion whose particles size is less than about 100nm by employing emulsifiers or surface active agents is well known in the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gina C. Yu whose telephone number is 571-272-0635.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gina Yu
Patent Examiner